

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08303

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TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN ANC LEADERS' MEETING WITH FOREIGN
SECRETARY CALLAGHAN

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FONSEC CALLAGHAN IN JULY 1 MEETING
WITH ANC DELEGATION LED BY DR. ELLIOT GABELLAH HEARD
ANC REPORT OF BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH IAN SMITH
AND RATHER PESSIMISTIC ANC VIEWS ON PROSPECTS FOR SETTLE-
MENT IN RHODESIA. CALLAGHAN TOOK OCCASION TO REASSURE
ANC LEADERS OF CONTINUED HMG INTEREST IN SETTLEMENT
ACCEPTABLE TO AFRICAN MAJORITY AND INFORMED ANC HMG
HAS MADE NO NEW POLICY DECISIONS CONCERNING RHODESIA
EXCEPT FOR TIGHTENING SANCTIONS. END SUMMARY

2. THREE-MAN RHODESIAN ANC DELEGATION LED BY DR. ELLIOT
GABELLAH, VICE PRESIDENT OF ANC, CALLED ON FONSEC
CALLAGHAN JULY 1 TO BRIEF CALLAGHAN ON BREAKDOWN OF
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ANC AND IAN SMITH AND TO DISCUSS
FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. ACCORDING
TO HEAD RHODESIAN DEPARTMENT AT FCO, GABELLAH SAID
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THAT CONTRARY TO SMITH'S STATEMENTS ANC LEADER BISHOP

MUZOREWA HAD NOT RPT NOT AT ANY STAGE ACCEPTED SMITH PROPOSALS. ANC NATIONAL CONGRESS HELD IN MARCH HAD PASSED RESOLUTION WHICH MADE IT MANDATORY FOR MUZOREWA TO GET APPROVAL OF PARTY EXECUTIVE AT EACH STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS. ONLY AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN SMITH AND MUZOREWA WAS THAT MUZOREWA WOULD PUT SMITH PROPOSAL TO ANC EXECUTIVE, BUT EVEN THEN MUZOREWA TOLD SMITH THERE WAS NO PROSPECT THAT THE EXECUTIVE WOULD ACCEPT SMITH PROPOSAL. HENCE SMITH CLAIM THAT MUZOREWA HAD REACHED AGREEMENT WITH HIM AND THAT AGREEMENT THEN REJECTED BY EXTREMISTS IN ANC EXECUTIVE NOT RPT NOT TRUE.

3. ANC LEADERS TOLD CALLAGHAN THAT THEY COULD NEVER AGREE TO ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS PROPOSED BY SMITH BASED ON THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF SMITH'S PLANS FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS. ANC UNDERSTANDING IS THAT SMITH WOULD CONVOKE THREE OR FOUR REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF A VARIETY OF ORGANIZATIONS TO BE SELECTED BY SMITH. ANC LEADERS CONVINCED THAT SMITH WOULD STACK MEETING WITH PRO-SETTLEMENT TOADIES AND THAT ANC WOULD FIND THEMSELVES THE ONLY NATIONALISTS PRESENT. SMITH WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO SAY ANC IN MINORITY. GABELLAH SAID THAT EVEN IF EDSON SITHOLE HAD NOT BEEN IN PRISON ANC STILL WOULD NOT AGREE TO ROUNDTABLE ON THESE TERMS.

4. FCO HAD IMPRESSION THAT GABELLAH AND ANC ARE RATHER PESSIMISTIC AND HAVE NO CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT THEY INTEND TO DO IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. ANC LEADERS GAVE IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS A STRONG DESIRE AMONG EUROPEAN POPULATION FOR SETTLEMENT WITH AFRICANS. FURTHER, ANC FELT THAT THERE MAY BE A CHANCE TO OPEN NEW CHAPTER AFTER ELECTIONS. THEIR REASONING WAS THAT THEY EXPECT THE WHITE OPPONENTS OF SMITH POLICY TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF THE VOTES THEY GET IF NOT THEIR NUMBER OF SEATS. THIS COULD GIVE SMITH OPPORTUNITY TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN NEGOTIATIONS

ON GROUNDS HE UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE FROM LEFTISTS.

5. IN ANY EVENT, ANC INSISTED THAT THERE COULD BE NO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL DR. SITHOLE IS RELEASED.
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FCO INTERPRETS THIS AS HARDENING OF ANC POSITION AS IN PAST THEY HAVE NEGOTIATED IN SPITE OF IMPRISONMENT OF OTHER PARTY LEADERS. CHANGE IN ATTITUDE BY ANC IS ASCRIBED BY FOREIGN OFFICE TO FEELING ON PART ANC LEADERS THEIR POSITION HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AND PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

6. FONSEC CALLAGHAN REASSURED GABELLAH THAT HMG WOULD

NOT AGREE TO ANY SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA UNLESS IT IS
SUPPORTED BY AFRICAN MAJORITY IN COUNTRY. HE ADDED
THAT HMG NOT INTERESTED IN ANY DEVICES BY SMITH GOVERN-
MENT TO OBSCURE MAJORITY WISHES. FINALLY, CALLAGHAN
COMMENTED HIS GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN NO FIRM DECISIONS
ON NEW MEASURES TO DEAL WITH RHODESIAN PROBLEM OTHER
THAN TIGHTENING SANCTIONS.

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